

REMARKS

I. Present Status of Patent Application

Claims 1-3, 7, 12-14, and 17-18 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 7, 12-14, and 17-18 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public. Claims 4-6, 8-11, and 15-16 remain pending in the present application. In response to the Office Action dated January 3, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

II. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's statement in the Office Action in which claims 11 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

III. Response To Rejections of Claims 8 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over *Jebe* (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,453) in view of *Schroder* (U.S. Patent No. 3,572,706).

It is well established at law that, for a proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based upon a single reference, the reference must disclose, teach, or suggest, either implicitly or explicitly, all elements/features/steps of the claim at issue. *See, e.g., In Re Dow Chemical*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988), and *In re Keller*, 208 U.S.P.Q.2d 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981).

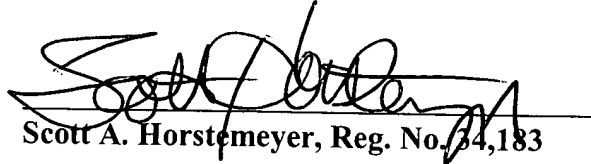
Because independent claims 11 and 16 are allowable over the prior art of record, dependent claims 4-6, 8-10, and 15 are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that the

dependent claims 4-6, 8-10, and 15 contain all the elements and features of their respective independent claims. *See, In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims 4-6, 8-11, and 15-16 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Horstemeyer, Reg. No. 34,183

THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500